



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

Guam's First Line of Defense | Protecting Our Island, Our People, and Our Resources

Director's Office

*Acting Director of Customs – Eric M. Palacios
Chief of Customs – Vincent S.N. Perez*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2018

Construction Contract Signed for MITF's Dock at the Port

BARRIGADA,
GUAM – Yesterday,
August 8, 2018, the
Governor of Guam
signed a contract for
the construction of the
Customs and
Quarantine Agency's
(CQA) float dock at
the Jose D. Leon
Guerrero's
Commercial Port's
Sea plane ramp.



In 2013, the CQA in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), laid the framework for the construction of a float dock to accommodate up to four vessels as well as office space for CQA's Maritime Interdiction Task Force (MITF), and NOAA at the island's only commercial port. The agreement allows for CQA to be reimbursed annually up to a secured cap with NOAA reimbursing the Agency upon expense.

Since 2013, the MITF has been working with NOAA officials and has secured the following reimbursements:

Reimbursement	Secured	Spent/Allocated Funds	Reimbursement Remaining
2014:	\$98,975.00	\$98,975.00 <i>Float dock</i>	\$0.00
2015:	\$105,000.00	\$0.00	\$105,000.00
2016:	\$101,947.00	\$101,947.00 <i>PO for install</i>	\$0.00
2017:	\$116,350.00	\$0.00	\$116,350.00
Totals:	\$422,272.00	\$200,922.00	\$221,350.00

Though the remaining reimbursable funds of \$221,350.00 were set to expire by August 31, 2018 jeopardizing the project and causing the Agency to lose federal funding, CQA's Acting Director Eric M. Palacios took the lead in overcoming past due milestones and in a month coordinated between NOAA, the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Attorney General's Office, and the

Office of the Governor of Guam to finalize and secure the structure's construction contract. This would allow the Agency to spend the remaining money on constructing the facility.

Palacios states, "CQA and NOAA know the value in having a dedicated site at the commercial port to support both missions. I'm glad to have been here to ensure the Agency and Guam did not lose out on this opportunity and free money toward better protecting our oceanic resources and island."

As part of the Agreement between CQA and NOAA, CQA must conduct a certain amount of boating hours to support NOAA's mission of protecting fisheries, endangered species, and enforcing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This benefits Guam in that NOAA assists the Agency with acquiring assets for operations and operational growth as well as provides funding for enforcement hours. Furthermore, this program equips CQA with the means to patrol and enforce the Agency's mission at sea.

For more information, please contact our Public Information Officer Ms. Jessi Santos-Torres at (671) 475-6202 or email Jessi.Santos-Torres@cqa.guam.gov.

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